

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound comprising:
  - a methyl vinyl silicone polymer from about 20 to 60 weight percent;
  - a fumed silica filler from about 20 to 60 weight percent;
  - a microsphere agent from about 5 to 50 weight percent;
  - a cross-linking agent from about 0.1 to 5 weight percent; and
  - oak dust from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent.
2. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1, wherein the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane.
3. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1, wherein the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
4. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platonic acid.
5. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent is peroxide.
6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1, wherein the oak dust is toasted.
7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1, wherein:
  - the oak dust is toasted; and
  - the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1 further comprising:
- a high vinyl silicone polymer from about 0.5 to 10 weight percent;
  - pigment from about 0.1 to 5 weight percent;
  - silicon hydride from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent;
  - ethynyl cyclohexanol from about 0.05 to 5 weight percent;
  - wherein the oak dust is toasted; and
  - wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.
9. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 8, wherein:
- the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane; and
  - the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound comprising:
- a methyl vinyl silicone polymer of about 40.7 weight percent;
  - a fumed silica filler of about 27.1 weight percent;
  - a microsphere agent of about 26.2 weight percent;
  - a cross-linking agent of about 0.99 weight percent; and
  - oak dust of about 1.0 weight percent.
11. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10, wherein the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane.
12. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10, wherein the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
13. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10, wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.
14. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10, wherein the cross-linking agent is peroxide.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10, wherein the oak dust is toasted.
16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10, wherein:
- the oak dust is toasted; and
  - the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10 further comprising:
- a high vinyl silicone polymer of about 1.3 weight percent;
  - pigment of about 0.25 weight percent;
  - silicon hydride of about 2.3 weight percent;
  - ethynyl cyclohexanol of about 0.08 weight percent;
  - wherein the oak dust is toasted; and
  - wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.
18. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 17, wherein:
- the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane; and
  - the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
19. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper formed from a synthetic cork compound comprising:
- a methyl vinyl silicone polymer from about 20 to 60 weight percent;
  - a fumed silica filler from about 20 to 60 weight percent;
  - a microsphere agent from about 5 to 50 weight percent; and
  - a cross-linking agent from about 0.1 to 5 weight percent.
20. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19, wherein the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane.
21. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19, wherein the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.

22. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19, wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.
23. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19, wherein the cross-linking agent is peroxide.
24. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19 further comprising toasted oak dust from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent.
25. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19 further comprising:  
toasted oak dust from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent; and  
wherein the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
26. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19 further comprising:  
a high vinyl silicone polymer from about 0.5 to 10 weight percent;  
toasted oak dust from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent;  
pigment from about 0.1 to 5 weight percent;  
silicon hydride from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent;  
ethynl cyclohexanol from about 0.05 to 5 weight percent; and  
wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.

27. (WITHDRAWN) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 19 further comprising:
- a high vinyl silicone polymer of about 1.3 weight percent;
  - toasted oak dust of about 1.0 weight percent;
  - pigment of about 0.25 weight percent;
  - silicon hydride of about 2.3 weight percent;
  - ethynl cyclohexanol of about 0.08 weight percent;
  - wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid present in an amount of about 0.99 weight percent;
  - wherein the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane present in an amount of about 40.7 weight percent;
  - wherein the fumed silica filler is present in an amount of about 27.1 weight percent;
  - and
  - wherein the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate present in an amount of about 26.2 weight percent.
28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound comprising:
- a methyl vinyl silicone polymer from about 20 to 60 weight percent;
  - a fumed silica filler from about 20 to 60 weight percent;
  - a microsphere agent from about 5 to 50 weight percent;
  - a cross-linking agent from about 0.1 to 5 weight percent; and
  - oak dust that does not consist of natural cork from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent.
29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 28, wherein the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane.
30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 28, wherein the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 28, wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 28, wherein the cross-linking agent is peroxide.
33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 28, wherein the oak dust is toasted.
34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 28, wherein:
- the oak dust is toasted; and
  - the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 28 further comprising:
- a high vinyl silicone polymer from about 0.5 to 10 weight percent;
  - pigment from about 0.1 to 5 weight percent;
  - silicon hydride from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent;
  - ethynyl cyclohexanol from about 0.05 to 5 weight percent;
  - wherein the oak dust is toasted; and
  - wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.
36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 35 wherein:
- the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane; and
  - the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound comprising:
- a methyl vinyl silicone polymer from about 20 to 60 weight percent;
  - a fumed silica filler from about 20 to 60 weight percent;
  - a microsphere agent from about 5 to 50 weight percent;
  - a cross-linking agent from about 0.1 to 5 weight percent; and
  - oak dust not comprising natural cork from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 37, wherein the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane.
39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 37, wherein the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 37, wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.
41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 37, wherein the cross-linking agent is peroxide.
42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 37, wherein the oak dust is toasted.
43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 37, wherein:  
the oak dust is toasted; and  
the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 37 further comprising:  
a high vinyl silicone polymer from about 0.5 to 10 weight percent;  
pigment from about 0.1 to 5 weight percent;  
silicon hydride from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent;  
ethynyl cyclohexanol from about 0.05 to 5 weight percent;  
wherein the oak dust is toasted; and  
wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.
45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 44, wherein:  
the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane; and  
the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.

46. (NEW) A method for producing a synthetic cork compound, the method comprising:
- mixing a methyl vinyl silicone polymer of about 40.7 weight percent with a fumed silica filler of about 27.1 weight percent to form a mixture;
  - adding a high vinyl silicone polymer of about 1.3 weight percent to the mixture after the mixing step;
  - adding toasted oak dust that does not consist of natural cork of about 1.0 weight percent and zinc ferrite pigment of about 0.25 percent to the mixture after adding the high vinyl silicone polymer;
  - adding a microsphere agent of about 26.2 weight percent and ethynyl cyclohexanol of about 0.08 weight percent to the mixture;
  - adding silicon hydride of about 2.3 weight percent to the mixture after adding the microsphere agent and the ethynyl cyclohexanol;
  - adding a cross-linking agent of about 0.99 weight percent to the mixture;
  - extruding the mixture to form an extruded material;
  - curing the extruded material in a continuous vulcanizer for about 2.5 minutes after the extruding step;
  - cooling the extruded material using water after the curing step; and
  - cutting the extruded material after the cooling step.